

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 10 are pending. Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 10 are cancelled. Claim 2 is amended. No new matter is introduced. Reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of allowance are respectfully requested.

On page 2 the Office Action rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 112. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 is amended to recite an interface through which members of the mutual benefit association contact the cargo container clearinghouse. See, e.g., web portal 113 of Figure 1B. With this amendment, claim 2 should be patentable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is respectfully requested.

On page 3 the Office Action rejects claims 1, 5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,240,295 to Kennedy, II et al. (hereafter Kennedy). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In rejecting claim 1, the Office Action asserts that Kennedy discloses “a global information clearinghouse” including “a central information repository (‘platform’ col 4 ln 25 - 40) wherein information related to the transportation of goods is processed and stored . . .”

Kennedy is directed to a cellular telephone communications system. Kennedy uses a “clearinghouse” to assist switching of calls. See column 3, lines 61 - 67. But such a “clearinghouse” is not a global cargo container clearinghouse. Furthermore, nowhere, including the Examiner’s cited passage, does Kennedy disclose or suggest storing information related to the transportation of goods. The mere recitation of the term “clearinghouse” in Kennedy cannot possibly serve as a basis for rejecting a claim that recites a cargo container clearinghouse and storage of information related to the transportation of goods.

In contrast to Kennedy, claim 1 recites a global cargo container clearinghouse, including a repository for storing information related to the transportation of goods. As noted above, Kennedy does not disclose or suggest these features. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable.

Similar to claim 1, the remaining independent claims 5 and 8 each recite features not disclosed or suggested by Kennedy. Thus, claims 5 and 8 also are patentable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 5, and 8 over Kennedy is respectfully requested.

On page 4 the Office Action rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,240,295 to Kennedy, II et al. (hereafter Kennedy). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 depends from patentable claim 1, and for this reason and the additional features it recites, claim 2 also is patentable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2 over Kennedy is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 28, 2008

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